

\* for Examiner Reference

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 – 16: Cancelled

17. (New) A drag chain conveyor for use in underground mining, comprising:  
interconnected, profiled conveyor chutes;  
at least one conveyor chain (11, 12) of metallic material, guided in said conveyor chutes;

plastic carriers (10) attached to said at least one conveyor chain (11, 12), wherein attachment is effected via a molding around of annular chain links (13) of said conveyor chain with plastic, and wherein said plastic, which is molded for a simultaneous production of said plastic carriers (10) monolithically with connecting regions that hold said chain links (13) penetrates and surrounds said chain links; and

at least one drive means for said at least one conveyor chain.

18. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 17, wherein said at least one conveyor chain (11, 12) is composed of individual, interconnected chain strands having said plastic carriers (10) cast thereon.

19. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 17, wherein said plastic carriers (10) are disposed between two outwardly disposed individual chains.

20. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 17, wherein said plastic carriers (10) are disposed on a centrally extending chain.

21. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 17, wherein plastic carriers (10) are disposed on two spaced-apart central chains (11, 12) that extend centrally through said plastic

carriers.

22. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 17, wherein for production of said plastic carriers (10), including their connecting regions with said chain links (13), a flowable plastic having self-extinguishing, difficult to ignite, and anti-static properties is used.

23. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 17, wherein for reinforcement, metallic reinforcing particles are cast into said plastic carriers (10).

24. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 17, wherein for reinforcement of said plastic carriers (10), reinforcing fibers (14, 15) are introduced into the plastic.

25. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 24, wherein short reinforcing fibers (14) having a random distribution are embedded in the plastic of said plastic carriers (10).

26. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 24, wherein reinforcing fibers 15 that extend over a length of said plastic carriers (10) are introduced into the plastic.

27. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 26, wherein said reinforcing fibers (15) extend about said chain links (13).

28. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 26, wherein said reinforcing fibers (15) are passed through said chain links (13).

29. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 24, wherein a mesh (16) of reinforcing fibers is disposed on or in the plastic.

30. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 24, wherein a fabric of reinforcing fibers is introduced into the plastic.

31. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 24, wherein a braiding of reinforcing fibers is introduced into the plastic.

32. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 24, wherein a knitting of reinforcing fibers is introduced into the plastic.